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| 10/800,662 | 03/16/2004 | Tetsuya Kawanabe | 00862.023505 | 4728 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 08/21/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | RAHMAN, FAHMIDA | |
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2116

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,662

Applicant(s)

KAWANABE, TETSUYA

Examiner

Fahmida Rahman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/19/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority on 7/6/2004. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). There is no document that shows the certification of the Japanese application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 11 recite the limitation "a first connected external device" in line 4. However, it is unclear whether this is intended to refer one of the "external devices" recited earlier (in line 2 of claim 1, in line 3 of claim 11). It is necessary to establish the relationship between the two recitations. For the rest of the action, it is assumed that "a first connected external device" recited in line 4 is not one of the "external devices"

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recited earlier, as the “external devices” consume power whereas “first connected device” supplies the power.

In addition, claim 1 recites “a plurality of external devices” in line 14, “an external device” in line 16, “a first connected external device” in line 18. It is unclear whether they are intended to be same or different from each other. It is necessary to establish a relationship among them. For the rest of the action, it assumed that “an external device” recited in line 16 and “a first connected external device” recited in line 18 is one of “a plurality of external devices” recited in line 14, which are same as “external devices” recited in line 2, wherein “a first connected external device” recited in line 18 is different from “a first connected external device” recited in line 4. The basis of this assumption is Fig 4 – Fig 14 of applicant’s disclosure and their corresponding description.

Similar ambiguity exists in claim 11 and claim 10, for which assumptions similar to claim 1 have been taken.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1. They carry the same ambiguity of claim 1.

Appropriate connection is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 6, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6256516).

For claims 1, 10, Ishikawa et al teach the following limitations:

A printing apparatus (Fig 6) provided with a plurality of interface means (the three 150s) connectable to external devices (139 and 109) adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from a first-connected external source ("AC POWER SOURCE"), the printing apparatus adapted to print images stored in the external devices, the printing apparatus comprising: connection detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the respectively plurality of interface means (lines 31-50 of column 8); determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the plurality of external devices demands exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that a plurality of external devices are connected (line 63 of column 8 through line 6 of column 9); and selection means for selecting an external device to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a first-connected external device when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying (lines 50-62 of column 8 mention that the operating mode of printer is changed first, then the mode of editor and then the

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mode of camera. Therefore, the selection means selects the external device 109 to be supplied with power according to the operating state of first connected device 139).

For claim 6, interface means comprises different specification as 109 and 139 are two different devices.

For claim 11, Ishikawa et al teach the following limitations:

A power supply control method in a printing apparatus (Fig 6) provided with a plurality of interface means (the three 150s) connectable to external devices (139 and 109) adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from a first-connected external source ("AC POWER SOURCE"), the printing apparatus adapted to print images stored in the external devices, the method comprising:

detecting a connection state of the external devices to the respectively plurality of interface means (lines 31-50 of column 8);

determining whether or not a total amount of power that the plurality of external devices demands exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that a plurality of external devices are connected (line 63 of column 8 through line 6 of column 9);

selecting an external device to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a first-connected external device when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying (lines 50-62 of column 8 mention

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that the operating mode of printer is changed first, then the mode of editor and then the mode of camera. Therefore, the selection means selects the external device 109 to be supplied with power according to the operating state of first connected device 139).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6256516).

For claim 4, Ishakawa et al do not provide any user notification. Examiner takes an official notice that user notification is well known in the art. One ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to provide the user notification, since that would give the user a message as to how he should operate the devices.

For claim 5, the embodiment of Fig 5 does not provide user selection means. However, embodiment of Fig 9 provides a plurality of devices, which are controlled based on priority set beforehand (lines 65-67 of column 10). As the setting of priority typically requires user selection of the devices, the selection means comprises user selection means.

It would have been obvious for an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have user selection means in the embodiment of Fig 5, as that would provide the complete control over the devices.

For claims 7 and 8, Ishikawa et al do not mention about USB and memory card interface. Examiner takes an official notice that USB and memory card interface is well known in the art. One ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use USB for it's increased speed, memory card interface for increased storage.

For claim 9, the embodiment of Fig 5 does not provide 1394 interface. However 5th embodiment (lines 5-10 of column 17) provides 1394 interface. One ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use such interface in the embodiment of Fig 5 for increased speed.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6256516) in view of Kim (US Patent Application publication 2003/0070103).

For claim 2, Ishikawa et al do not teach the cease of supply to first device and start of supply to the second device. Kim teaches a system where each of the connected devices can be individually turned off based on data analysis. Therefore, idle device is

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turned off and the second device could be restarted based on data signal. It is possible that first device is first connected and second device is later connected.

It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Kim and Ishikawa et al. One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have start/stop feature of Kim in the system of Ishikawa to implement the power control feature.

For claim 3, Kim's system restarts any device that is not idle and stops the device that is disconnected/idle. Therefore, the first connected device can be restarted if data detector detects data on the line.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fahmida Rahman whose telephone number is 571-272-8159. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on 571-272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fahmida Rahman
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